

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A polyether alcohol prepared by ring-opening polymerization of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule onto H-functional initiator substances, wherein ethylene oxide or a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture, is added in an amount of not more than 40% by weight, based on the weight of the polyether alcohol, onto the initiator substance and subsequently at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule or a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture, is added on, and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as a catalyst.

2. (Previously Amended) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkylene oxides having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule are propylene oxide, butylene oxide, isobutylene oxide or any mixtures of at least two of the of the alkylene oxides.

3. (Original) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein propylene oxide is used as alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule.

4. (Original) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein ethylene oxide is added on at the end of the chain.

5. (Original) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 4, wherein a maximum of 15% by weight of ethylene oxide, based on the weight of the polyether alcohol, is added on at the end of the chain.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing polyether alcohols by ring-opening polymerization of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule onto H-functional initiator substances, which comprises adding ethylene oxide or a mixture of ethylene oxide ~~an~~ and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, ~~wherein~~ where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture in an amount of not more than 40% by weight, based on the weight of the polyether alcohol, onto the initiator substance and subsequently adding on at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule or a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture, and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as catalyst.

7. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one basic compound is used as catalyst for the addition of the ethylene oxide or of the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture, onto the initiator substance, and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as catalyst for adding

on the alkylene oxide or oxides having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule or the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture the polymerization of the alkylene oxides.

8. (Previously Amended) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one basic compound is used as catalyst for the addition of the ethylene oxide or of the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture, onto the initiator substance and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as catalyst for adding on the alkylene oxide or oxides having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule or the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture, and at least one basic compound is used as catalyst for adding on the ethylene oxide at the end of the chain.

9. (Previously Amended) A polyurethane produced by reacting polyisocyanates with compounds having at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein a polyether alcohol as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 is used as compound having at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups.

10. (Previously Added) A polyether alcohol prepared by ring-opening

polymerization of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule onto H-functional initiator substances wherein

a1) ethylene oxide

or

a2) a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture,

is added in an amount of not more than 40% by weight based on the weight of the polyether alcohol onto the initiator substance and subsequently

b1) at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule

or

b2) a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture,

is added in the presence of at least one multimetal cyanide compound catalyst.